

Firearm Injuries among Children and Youth

Division of Public Health Injury and Violence Prevention Branch

Child Fatality Task Force March 7, 2018



Firearm injuries and deaths among NC children and youth (ages 0-17 years)

2010-2014

Analysis by Injury Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit

210 deaths

279

hospitalizations

777

emergency department visits

2016

51 deaths

97 hospitalizations

314

emergency department visits

Source: N.C. State Center for Health Statistics (SCHS), Vital Statistics-Hospitalizations, 2010-2014, 2016; NC DETECT, 2010-2014, 2016; NC Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, 2010-2014; NC SCHS, Vital Statistics-Deaths, 2016. Note: In October 2015, there was a change in the coding system used in the hospital and ED data sets; because of this change 2015 data are unavailable





Safe Storage of Firearms Nationally

 Approximately one in three handguns is kept loaded and unlocked



- Most children know where guns are kept by their parents
- More than...

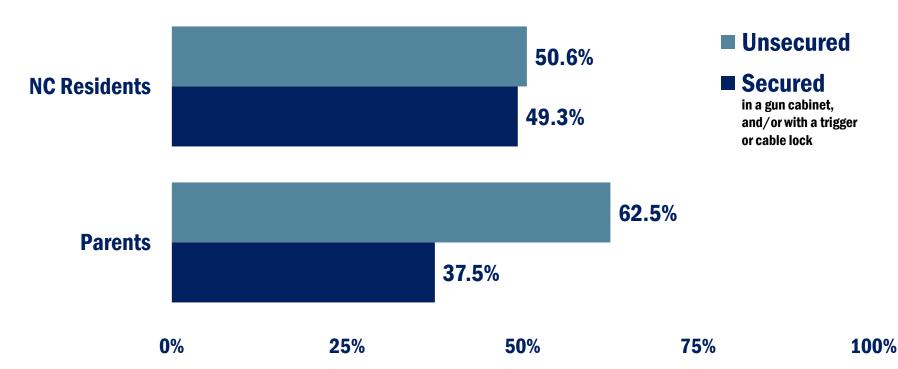
of guns used by youth in suicide 75% attempts were kept in the home of the victim, a relative, or a friend



^{*}Source: Gun Violence: Facts and Statistics, from the Center for Injury Research and Prevention, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Research Institute.

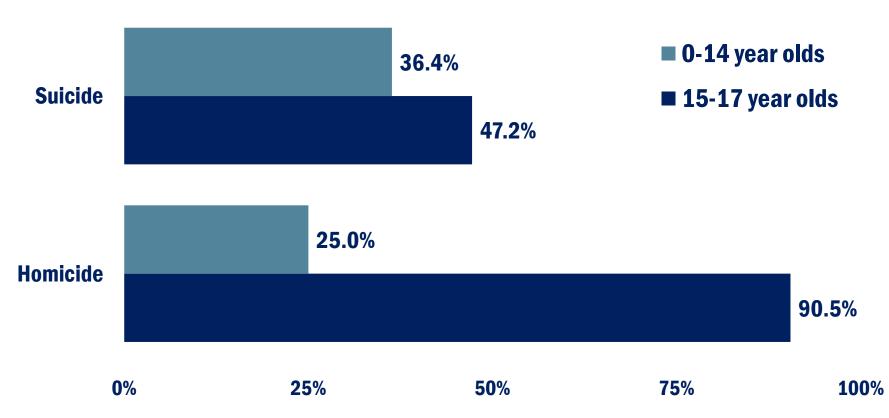
Safe Storage of Firearms in NC

- 41.6% of North Carolina residents own firearms
- 36.9% keep firearms loaded





Proportion of NC child and youth homicides and suicides involving firearms, 2012-2016

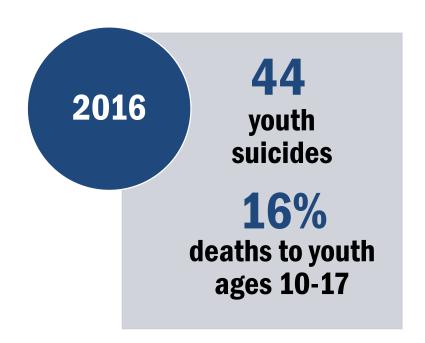




Youth Suicide Deaths

- Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death for youth ages 10-17 Nationally and in North Carolina
- In North Carolina:

2006-2015 300 suicide deaths among 17 and younger



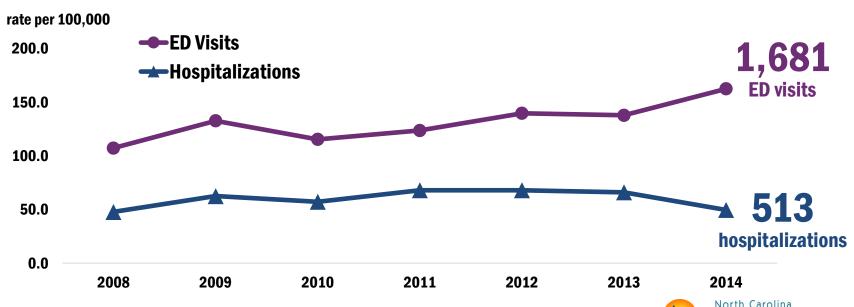




Youth Suicide Attempts

- 9.3% of NC high school students surveyed in 2015 reported attempting suicide
 - Almost **2x** rate in 2011 & 2013

Self-inflicted injury among youth ages 10-17



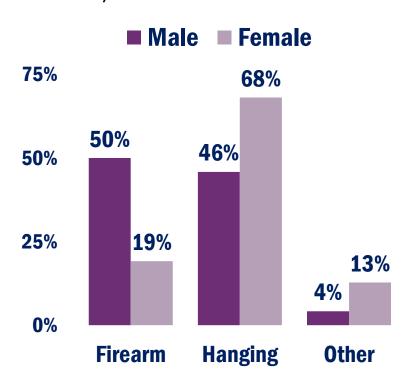
Source: NC Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (NC YRBS), 2011, 2013, 2015; N.C. State Center for Health Statistics (SCHS), Vital Statistics-Hospitalizations, 2008-2014; NC DETECT, 2008-2014

Analysis by Injury Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit

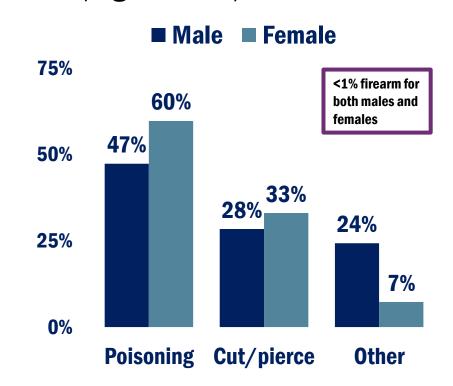


Youth Suicide Means and Demographics

Method of youth suicide, ages 10-17, 2010-2014



Method of self-inflicted injury ED Visits, ages 10-17, 2010-2014





Questions?

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